

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06 OES-07
SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 FEA-01 /102 W
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R 070535Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8763
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, TU

SUBJ: TURKISH CONTACTS WITH AMERICAN OFFSHORE OIL EXPLORATION FIRMS

REF: ANKARA 4966

1. WE HAVE HAD RECENT INDICATIONS OF INCREASING TURKISH WILLINGNESS
TO PERMIT AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN OFFSHORE OIL EXPLORATION IN
TURKISH WATERS.

2. ON SEPTEMBER 1, MR. ROYCE CRAWFORD, NEGOTIATOR, PHILLIPS
PETROLEUM COMPANY VISITED EMBASSY FOR BRIEFING. CRAWFORD, WHO
REPRESENTS A UNIT OF PHILLIPS SPECIALIZING IN DEEP WATER EXPLORATION
(600 TO 3000 FEET, AS WE UNDERSTAND IT), SAID HE WAS HOLDING
PRELIMINARY TALKS WITH TURKISH PETROLEUM CORPORATION(TPAO) REGARDING
A POSSIBLE JOINT VENTURE TO EXPLORE FOR OIL IN DEEP WATER OFF TURKISH
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BLACK SEA COAST. CRAWFORD SAID HIS PRINCIPAL PURPOSE AT THIS TIME
WAS TO GATHER GEOPHYSICAL DATA, ON BASIS OF WHICH PHILLIPS DECISION
TO PARTICIPATE WOULD BE MADE, AND TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE TERMS OF
SUCH A VENTURE. HE SAID TURKS HAD BEEN EXTREMELY COOPERATIVE IN
PROVIDING DATA AND HAD GIVEN IMPRESSION THEY MIGHT BE RECEPTIVE TO
TERMS ON WHICH PHILLIPS WOULD ENTER INTO VENTURE, I.E., PRODUCTION
SHARING WITH STANDARD ROYALTY AND TAX RATE. HE ALSO SAID

NEITHER HE NOR PHILLIPS' GEOPHYSICIST ACCOMPANYING HIM ON VISIT TO ANKARA COULD MAKE ANY JUDGEMENT YET AS TO GEOLOGICAL PROSPECTS IN TURKISH BLACK SEA AREA, FOR WHICH VERY LITTLE DATA IS AVAILABLE.

3. IN JUNE MR. RANDOLPH J. NOGEL, ATTORNEY, STANDARD OIL COMPANY (INDIANA) CALLED AT EMBASSY FOR SIMILAR BRIEFING. NOGEL WAS CONSIDERABLY LESS FORTHCOMING THAN PHILLIPS REP HOWEVER, SAYING ONLY THAT HIS COMPANY WAS IN EARLY STAGES OF CONSIDERING JOINT VENTURE TO EXPLORE IN MEDITERRANEAN SOUTH OF ADANA-MERSIN COAST.

4. WE HAVE ALREADY REPORTED (REFTEL) JUNE VISIT OF GLOBAL MARINE REPRESENTATIVE JOHN W. JENNINGS. DEPT. WILL RECALL THAT, IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION OF PAYMENT PROBLEM, JENNINGS INFORMED US OF 5 OFFSHORE SITES GLOBAL MARINE MIGHT BE EXPLORING ON STRAIGHT CONTRACT BASIS IN NEAR FUTURE; 3 IN BAY OF SAROS, ONE IN BLACK SEA NEAR BOSPHORUS, AND ANOTHER IN SEA OF MARMARA.

5. COMMENT: THERE MAY WELL BE ADDITIONAL AMERICAN AND OTHER FOREIGN PETROLEUM EXPLORATION FIRMS IN CONTACT WITH TPAO CONCERNING OFFSHORE PROJECTS, PROBABLY THE MOST PROMISING SOURCE OF DESPERATELY NEEDED TURKISH PETROLEUM RESERVES. WE HAD PREVIOUSLY UNDERSTOOD TERMS UNDER WHICH TPAO WOULD PERMIT FOREIGN PARTICIPATION IN PETROLEUM EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES HERE WERE GENERALLY UNATTRACTIVE, AT LEAST TO AMERICAN FIRMS. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT IN LIGHT OF BALANCE OF PAYMENTS CRISIS, LARGELY BROUGHT ON BY OIL PRICE RISES, SHIFT IN TURKISH POLICY IN THIS CONNECTION IS UNDERWAY.
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